

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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For Immediate Release:
July 1, 2015

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[OIPM Furthers Transparency around NOPD: Releases video of NOPD excessive use of Force]

Today, the OIPM released the video, showing a former NOPD officer's excessive force against a 16-year-old female minor. In releasing this video, the OIPM furthers its commitment to providing transparency to the City of New Orleans.

The video shows Officer Terrance Saulny, a 5'9" and 230 pound adult man, using excessive force against a 5'7" 140 pound girl by, among other things, hitting her with his forearm and hitting her with some metal restraints. In September 2014, Officer Saulny, assigned to secure the Youth Study Center, used excessive force against the female juvenile. In a subsequent investigation into his conduct, Officer Saulny was untruthful to the Department about his interaction with the juvenile. The Department terminated Officer Saulny in mid-June.

The OIPM spent over 60 hours reviewing and monitoring this Use of Force case. Specifically, the OIPM looked through extensive video and presented to the Department the contradictions between Officer Saulny's denials and the reality as shown on the video. After monitoring this investigation, the OIPM has made the following recommendations:

1. Require all NOPD officers to be equipped with body worn camera that will be activated in all parts of the Youth Study Center.
2. All NOPD officers who are housed in the juvenile unit should be specifically trained in verbal de-escalation, treatment of a juvenile and use of force.

With these recommendations, the OIPM hopes to lower the risk level posed to the community, the Department, and the future liability to the City. However, the OIPM has not received any confirmation from the department that they intend to implement OIPM's recommendations.

Deputy Police Monitor Simone Levine said, "It is integral to the OIPM that we provide a level of transparency to the City of New Orleans so that people will know what is happening in their police department. In this NOPD investigation of Officer Saulny, the OIPM worked with the Department to ensure that the investigation and disciplinary process was fair, timely and accurate."

To receive a copy of this video, please direct a public records request to slevine@nolaoig.org

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